

German mayor visits USAG Mannheim

By Christine Gebhard
USAG Mannheim Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim, Germany, hosted a special guest April 27.

Mayor Matthias Baass of nearby Viernheim accepted an invitation from Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fletcher, the garrison's commander, following an earlier office call by Fletcher to the Hessian community, which is only a few miles away from Mannheim garrison headquarters.

Key garrison directors and staff members briefed the mayor, who then toured several facilities, including the commissary, family housing, the child development center and Mannheim Elementary School. Baass' visit concluded with lunch at the Outstanding Café, the dining facility on Sullivan Barracks operated by 44th Signal Battalion.

Baass expressed his appreciation for the visit in a note, which read, "(I) would like to express (my) appreciation once more for the warm welcome and the very informative visit to Mannheim Garrison. Special thanks to Lt. Col. Fletcher, who greeted us as true friends and gave us the opportunity to learn so much about various facilities within the U.S. community."

He added that despite the short distance between his city and USAG Mannheim, "we really did not know that much about each other. We are impressed about what we were able to learn. The visit has certainly strengthened the good ties between our two communities and fostered our friendships."

Fletcher responded by saying: "We are honored and humbled that Mayor Baass accepted our invitation and believe his visit will further strengthen the already great relationship the Mannheim Military Community shares with the city of Viernheim. We look forward to hosting him and residents of Viernheim again in the near future."

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Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fletcher (left), USAG Mannheim commander, Viernheim Mayor Matthias Baass and Hermann Wunderle, Baass' public affairs officer, listen as commissary officer Gabriel Lugo explains what type of products the store carries. (By Christine Gebhard)

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Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fletcher (left), USAG Mannheim commander, Viernheim Mayor Matthias Baass and Hermann Wunderle, Baass' public affairs officer, watch as their Mannheim Elementary School "tour guide", Nicholas Girod, a fifth-grader, demonstrates what students can do in the school's media room. (By Christine Gebhard)